

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

GENEVA  
NEW • YORK

VOLUME LXXVIII • NO. 16

APRIL 25-MAY 2, 1997

## BRIEFS

Please Attend:

THE BOB BECKER  
TREE PLANTING  
IS APRIL 25!

On Friday, April 25, at 3:30 pm the Station celebrates Arbor Day by planting a Kousa white dogwood tree to the memory of Robert Becker, Associate Professor of Horticultural Science, on the south lawn of Hedrick Hall, near the old stone barn. All Station employees are encouraged to attend.

## SOFTBALL MEETING SCHEDULED

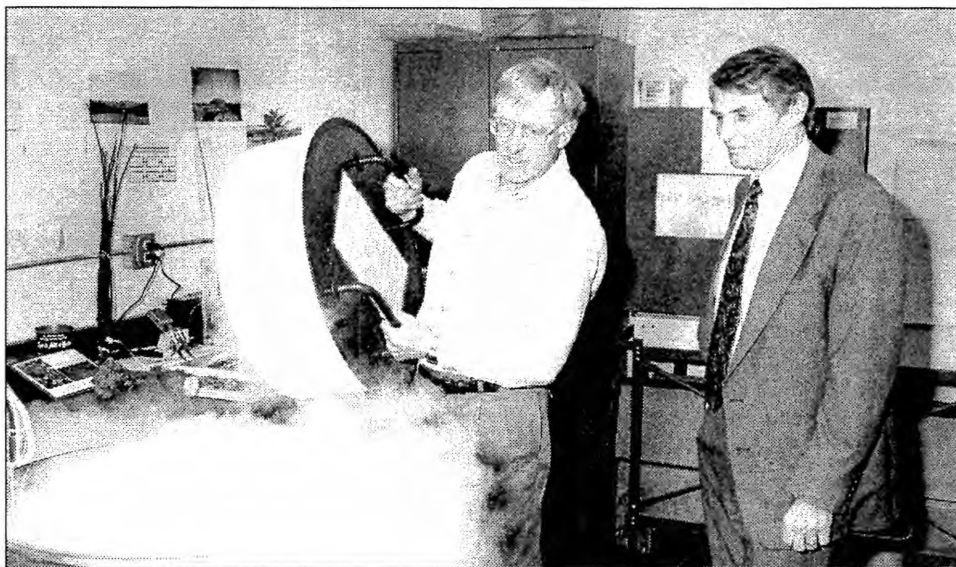
Softball season is just around the corner and Station Club Softball Commissioner Matt Lewis has scheduled a pre-season meeting for Friday, May 2, at Noon in the Sawdust Cafe. Each team captain, team representative, or anyone who would like to captain a team should plan to attend this meeting to discuss this season's schedule and playing rules.

EMPIRE PLAN PARTICIPATING  
PROVIDERS AVAILABLE  
ON THE WEB

The Department of Civil Service has a home page on the Web. The address is: <http://www.cs.state.ny.us>

A homepage link called Employee Benefits will provide the user with the Directory of Participating Providers for the Empire Plan. Follow the menu procedures to review and/or retrieve current information. As stated, the Directory will be updated weekly.

## "The Geneva Station is an outstanding example of what our land grant university system produces for America's taxpayers," says Rominger



*Phil Fosline explains to USDA Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger (right) how apple buds can be preserved in tanks of liquid nitrogen instead of rooted as trees during Rominger's tour of the Station on Saturday, April 19.*

Richard Rominger came to the Experiment Station for a three-hour tour on Saturday, April 19. He left with a deeper appreciation for the land grant system and two Station successes in his pockets—an Empire apple and a Jonagold.

"The Geneva Station is an outstanding example of what our land grant university system produces for America's taxpayers," said the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Deputy Secretary. "Agricultural research and extension are what have made possible the bounty of agricultural production we have in this country and allow the U.S. consumer to pay a lower percentage of income for food than in any other country in the world. The work that I saw at NYSAES demonstrated beyond any doubt the value of this investment in agricultural research."

At the Station, Rominger participated in a roundtable discussion with three local Station stakeholders—Joe Nicholson, owner of Red Jacket Orchard in Geneva, David Peterson of Swedish Hill Vineyard in Romulus, and Laura Pedersen of the Hansen Farm. They explained how a working relationship with Geneva was important to their operations.

"The partnership that exists between the federal, state and local government, and with the farmers, processors and others in private industry focused at the Experiment Station certainly proves the wisdom and benefits of this collaboration," said Rominger. "Support by private industry is what leverages the public dollars to achieve maximum results."

Director Jim Hunter stressed the importance of ongoing federal and state support. "Long-term agricultural research can only flourish in an environment of sustained staffing and continued funding," he said.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(ROMINGER, cont.)

Geneva seized the rare opportunity to make its case for federal funding to a top official in the Clinton Administration by demonstrating a broad range of agriculturally-related research on Saturday. Jim Tette took Rominger on a guided tour of the cans of IPM-labeled vegetables in Wegman's. Paul Robbins gave a "don't glaze over" explanation of the bivoltine and univoltine management of the flight of corn borers. Dennis Gonsalves gave a chalk talk of genetic engineering of virus resistant squash and tomatoes. Warren Lamboy, Phil Forsline, Stan Hokanson and Jim McFerson explained DNA fingerprinting of grapes, apple bud preservation in the nitrogen tank, and other USDA-affiliated projects at the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit. Out in the orchard, in the midst of a minor spring snowstorm, Terence Robinson explained apple training systems, while Bob Andersen

pointed out the important plantings of virus resistant rootstocks. Back at the Pilot Plant, Mark McLellan emphasized the Station's role in fostering new food products with entrepreneurs through the Food Venture Center. At all stops, Station researchers iterated the message that the Station develops basic agricultural research and then works to apply it in partnership with growers and processors in fruit and vegetable industries across the country and around the world.

"Partnerships between research and industry are what will help the U.S. stay competitive in national and international markets," said Rominger. "Congress wants to know that the growers are financially supportive of what the researchers are doing."

Rominger, who grew up on a family farm in California and graduated with a degree in plant science from UC-Davis, was

appointed to the USDA's number two slot by President Clinton in 1993. He came to Geneva after delivering a keynote address to an agricultural fraternity conference and touring Cornell University's Ithaca campus on Friday.

"Richard Rominger's visit to Cornell presented us with an opportunity of informing him how one land-grant college operates within the U.S.D.A./land-grant college partnership," said Daryl Lund, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "If agriculture is to remain economically viable in New York, it is going to take collaborative efforts between federal, state and local agencies and resources. Since he has a great deal of influence at the federal level, this was our opportunity to let him know our plans for supporting agriculture and related sciences."

## WPS TRAINING SCHEDULED

The following dates have been scheduled for Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training:

May 2, 10:30 am-Noon, Auditorium, Jordan Hall  
May 16, 10:30 am-Noon, Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
May 30, 10:30 am-Noon, Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
June 13, 10:30 am-Noon, Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
June 27, 10:30 am-Noon, Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
July 11, 10:30 am-Noon, Staff Room, Jordan Hall

Anyone who will or may come in contact with pesticides or pesticide residues applied in the field or greenhouse should be trained under this Act. Training consists of viewing a video that has been prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency plus a lecture presented by Mart VanKirk, Field Research Unit, and Pat Krauss, Administration. An individual needs to be trained once every five years. A card is given to each employee who completes training that they may carry with them in their wallet or purse.

## PESTICIDE FACILITY USER TRAINING SCHEDULED

The following dates have been scheduled for Pesticide Facility User Training:

May 9, 8:15-10:15 am, Auditorium, Jordan Hall  
May 23, 8:15-10:15 am, Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
June 6, 8:15-10:15 am, Staff Room, Jordan Hall

This training fulfills the college requirement that all facility users must be trained before they begin using the Pesticide Facility. The session will run about two hours beginning at 8:15 am in Jordan Hall (see schedule above) and conclude at the Pesticide Facility. You must provide your own transportation to the Fruit & Vegetable Research Farm. If you attended a previous Pesticide Facility User Training session, you need NOT attend this session, although you are welcome.

## PESTICIDE REMINDER

The spray season has begun. Please remember to check the electronic posting board and/or the on-site posting before entering any research blocks. Also remember applicators cannot always see people in or around the blocks being sprayed. If you are exposed to drift, vacate the area immediately and check the central posting at the F&VRF Pesticide Facility or call Mart Van Kirk at 781-5307 for details.

## NOTICE

**Do not park vehicles and equipment on paved areas this weekend.**  
**Friday, April 25, at 4:00 pm**  
**thru**  
**Monday, April 28, at 8:00 am**

**"Stillwell Sweepers" will be on campus to sweep roads and parking lots. Please use the following non-paved areas to park vehicles and equipment:**

**Behind Jordan Hall (by ball field)**  
**Behind Sawdust Cafe'**  
**East of Fruit Testing Bldg.**

*Thank you for your corporation,  
Buildings & Properties*



# You can make success stories possible through the 1997 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



Front row (from left): Charie Hibbard, Teresa Luss, Ontario County United Way Representative; second row: Jim Engel, Julie Kikkert, Sandy Antinelli, Tracy Harris, Bill Srmack; standing: Kai Shu Ling, Dave Lasher, Kristen Ondik, Hugh Price. Missing from photo are Patty Gibbs, Nancy Staton, and Dennis Gonsalves



**United Way**

**I**t is tough to think about taking a payroll deduction in years when there are no salary increases and our cost of living keeps increasing. Despite this situation, people at the Experiment Station generously contributed \$16,626 to UNITED WAY in 1996. This is an excellent demonstration that we are concerned about our community and supporting the Health and Human Service Agencies associated with the United Way. It is important that we continue to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

For the 1997 campaign, I am requesting that individuals who have contributed in the past continue to do so, and those who did not make a pledge last year consider doing so this year. A pledge of 50 cents or a dollar from each paycheck will hardly be missed, but will go a long way to help a child or a family who needs our help.

The United Way agencies offer a variety of services and programs that serve:

- Health and Safety Education
- Individual and family counseling
- Child sexual abuse assessment
- Services to victims of domestic violence
- Child care
- Services for individuals with developmental, physical and mental disabilities
- Adult education programs
- Disaster relief
- Drug/substance abuse services
- Health education, training and counseling
- Home health care
- Legal services
- Social development and recreation programs for youth

If you are concerned about specific agencies, you can select them from the list of 225 agencies in the Greater Rochester Area—or you can choose agencies where you do not want your gift to go.

Ontario County has over 1500 volunteers working on this campaign, which explains why the United Way can turn over 92% of all proceeds to the agencies. The United Way uses local dollars to provide local services, as allocated to the agencies by local volunteers. Although this is a time of anxiety for all of us with budgets being cut at all levels, I once again want to say that the Experiment Station has been a major force in the United Way for many years and I hope that everyone can find something to contribute, no matter how small it is.

The unit captains this year are:

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Administration</b>          | Charie Hibbard                 |
| <b>B&amp;P</b>                 | Dave Lasher                    |
| <b>Communications Services</b> | Sandy Antinelli                |
| <b>Computer Services</b>       | Patty Gibbs                    |
| <b>Entomology</b>              | Nancy Staton                   |
| <b>Field Research Unit</b>     | Greg Noden                     |
| <b>Food Science</b>            | Tracy Harris                   |
| <b>Horticultural Sciences</b>  | Julie Kikkert, Kristen Ondik   |
| <b>IPM</b>                     | James Engel                    |
| <b>PGRU</b>                    | Bill Srmack                    |
| <b>Plant Pathology</b>         | Dennis Gonsalves, Kai Shu Ling |

Thank you for your cooperation and generosity in contributing to the 1997 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN and our community.

*Hugh Price*  
1997 UNITED WAY, Chair

## STATUTORY RETIREMENT PLAN INFO DAY

There will be a SUNY Optional Retirement Plan informational meeting from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in the Jordan Hall Staff Room on Monday, April 28, 1997.

The Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) is the retirement plan for eligible employees who do not participate in the New York State Employees Retirement System.

Ken Walcyk, Certified Fund Specialist, from Aetna Retirement Services, Inc. will discuss the new options in your plan as well as the funds in your expanded plan such as; Fidelity, Alger, Janus, Lexington, Neuberger & Berman, TCI and Aetna. Statutory employees can now choose to participate in the Optional Retirement Plan provided by Aetna Life Insurance and Annuity Co. (Aetna is not an option for a tax deferred annuity.)

Other topics to be discussed are:

- How much income will I need when I retire?
- How much Social Security can I expect?
- How do I make my retirement plan fit my needs?
- How much can I take out of my retirement plan in retirement?
- How am I taxed on my retirement income?
- What is annuitizing?
- To annuitize or not to annuitize?
- What is a "Growth" fund?
- What is an "Aggressive" fund?
- What is an appropriate portfolio mix for me?
- How do I pick the funds in the plan?
- What is the "risk/reward" relationship?

Information on how to start your personal retirement planning process will be provided.

If you cannot make the seminar times, you can call or e-mail Ken Walcyk for an individual appointment. Phone: 1-800-444-9599 or 315-682-2168; e-mail: KenAetna@Aol.com

## \* ATTENTION GARDENERS \*

### *Come to the Perennial Plant Exchange*

Bring divisions from your favorite  
perennials to trade

DATE: Saturday, May 3

TIME: 10:00 am-noon

Rain or shine

WHERE: Station Pavilion

For more information, call Rixana at x246 or 781-0273 or Franzine at 789-8112.



## on the Loomis Farm

Dave Gill, a Research Support Specialist in Horticultural Sciences, called to report a sighting of a family of seven red fox pups by the pond on the Loomis Farm. "They are quite bold when the mother is not around," he said.

"I hope no idiot wants their tails for his motorcycle," Charlie Bennett, Research Technician added.

Gill and Bennett are enthusiastic proponents of foxes on a farm setting—especially fruit farms.

"People don't stop to think about the good that foxes do in an farm setting," said Gill. "One adult eats hundreds of mice and rats yearly." Given his druthers, Gill prefers gray foxes because they are less likely to go into a hen house. If chickens are not a consideration, he would encourage either red or gray.

At the Station, where there are nearly 700 acres of fruit and vegetables used for research and extension, foxes are important for the fruit farms in general, and the Rootstock Breeding Program in particular. Rootstocks—sometimes called "stool bed liners"—are propagated in "stool beds," then the rooted sticks, called "liners" for short, are harvested in the spring, then grafted onto the desired variety.

"When foxes work the stool beds and orchards, we have very negligible damage to the apple liners and trees. This spring I found no damage. A couple years ago, we had no foxes, a foot of snow cover, and extensive damage to stools and some damage to orchard trees even with mouse bait, Gill said.

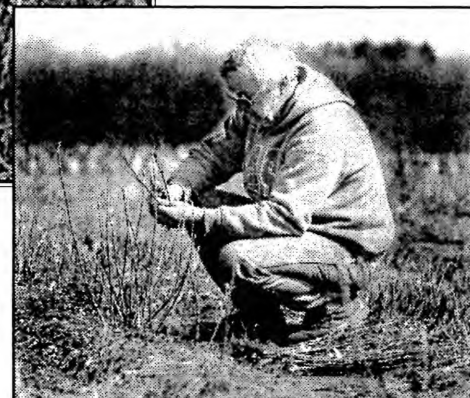
"When they are allowed to live, foxes do a number one finish job in conjunction with a mouse bait control program," said Gill. "In the winter, you can see almost straight lines of footprints in the snow where a fox wove its way back and forth along every sawdust-mounded row of our stool beds by Preemption Road. They walk along and pick the voles out of the mound cafeteria style and stash their catches of voles, rabbits, and young woodchucks in the spring, in the sawdust piles nearby."

Foxes are nocturnal and sometimes make hunting lodges in the Station sawdust piles during the winter because it is easy digging, warm, and the roof is frozen.

The Station family of foxes is doing so well because Gill thinks the family is dining on turkey. "A gray fox will not tackle a turkey unless the fox finds it dead. But, a red fox will. I saw one sneak up on a turkey last year, but that one only got within 250 feet of the bird."

For this reason, Gill believes grape growers would also benefit from having a fox family to guard the grapes.

"Some grape growers complain there are too many turkeys and that they eat ripe grapes before they are weighed and counted in the yield trials. Even if a fox takes a few grapes for its services, it is a lot less than a band of turkeys will take," he said.



*Red fox pups watch Charlie Bennett working with rootstocks in the stool beds on the Loomis Farm, behind Jordan Hall.*



## CALENDAR of EVENTS

APRIL 25-MAY 2, 1997

## EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Friday, April 25, 3:30 pm**  
South Lawn of Hedrick Hall  
*Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony*  
(see related story)

**Monday, April 28, 4:00 pm**  
Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
*SUNY Optional Retirement Plan Informa-  
tional Meeting* (see related story)

**Friday, May 2, Noon**  
Sawdust Cafe  
*1997 Station Softball Organizational  
Meeting* (see related story)

**Friday, May 2, 10:30 am**  
Auditorium, Jordan Hall  
*Worker Protection Standard Training*  
(see related story)

## FOOD SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, April 29  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** FST Conference Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Colin Campbell  
Cornell University, Ithaca  
(Dr. Campbell is a leader of a  
multimillion dollar Cornell-  
Oxford Cancer Project and a  
strong advocate of plant food diet.)  
**Topic:** Lessons from China and What They  
Portend for World Nutrition

## PLANT PATHOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, April 29  
**Time:** 3:30 pm  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Lab  
**Speaker:** Diana Parker  
Department of Plant Pathology,  
Geneva  
**Topic:** Control of plant pathogens with  
lipolytic esterases

## SEMINARS

## FOOD SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

**Date:** Thursday, May 1  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Place:** FST Conference Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Richard Ablett  
Prince Edward Island Food  
Technology Center  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward  
Island, Canada  
(Candidate for Senior Extension  
Associate Director,  
Food Venture Center.)  
**Topic:** New York State Food Venture  
Center-An Opportunity for  
Enhanced Economic Impact and  
Revenues for Cornell Institute of  
Food Science

*This seminar will be seen via PICTEL in 178  
Stocking Hall.*

## ENTOMOLOGY

**Date:** Thursday, May 1  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** The Paul J. Chapman  
Conference Room  
Room 310, Barton Lab  
**Speaker:** Dr. Richard Meadows  
Visiting Scientist with Tony  
Shelton,  
Department of Entomology  
**Topic:** Arctic Arthropods: Vegetable  
Entomology in Norway

*Social interaction time with speaker  
at 10:00 am  
Coffee & cookies will be available.*

## WORLD WIDE WEB SEMINAR SERIES

**Date:** Friday, May 2  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
**Speaker:** Tony Shelton  
**Topic:** Research and the Web: Pursuing  
grants for publication

## CLASSIFIEDS

**WANTED:** Summer childcare provider for 9-year-old and 6-year-old. Approx. 22 hrs/week. June 30-Aug. 28, with 2 weeks off in July. Prefer someone with driver's license and access to a car. Please call Margaret at x408 or 781-2421.

**WANTED:** Exercise machine (treadmill, Nordic Track, or stepper). Call Cathy x 251 or crw7@cornell.edu

**FOR SALE:** 1986 Chevy Nova. Good condition, runs well, little rust. \$1100. Car will be available around June 20. Contact Natasa at x351 or evenings at (607)272 8720 or email at np25@cornell.edu.

**FOR SALE:** CCM Concorde 26" Men's 10-speed bicycle. Like new. \$60. Call 789-8112.

**HOUSING NEEDED:** Visiting female scientist from New Zealand seeks room/small apartment for rent from mid-June to late August. Please contact Tony Shelton at 789-7035 or ams5@cornell.edu

## HOW TO STAY ON TOP OF



May 8, 1997 • 1:00-4:00 pm

Jordan Hall Staff Room

**S**tress affects everyone. How we think, feel, and act in response to stressful situations at work and at home will be examined. Participants will learn how to manage their responses to situations and thus lower their levels of stress.

Class Size: Minimum 5; Maximum 20

Fee: None

Instructor: Linda Starr, organizational consultant/mental health clinician to Cornell University Office of Human Resources, Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

**To register for How to Stay on Top of Stress, complete the following information and return it to Personnel, Jordan Hall, by May 1.**

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_